

Trip Report

North-eastern Catalonia – Spain

29 April–5 May 2005

Participants: Niklas Holmström & Lena Thurang, Sweden

General info

This trip was a combined holiday, visiting Barcelona for half of the time and birding in north-eastern Catalonia for the last three days. Flight with Ryanair early in the morning on 29th April from Skavsta (Nyköping, south of Stockholm) to Girona, which is located about 100 km north of Barcelona. The flight took about three hours. We paid 150 Euro per person for a return flight ticket. When we arrived on Friday 29th May we took the bus from Girona and arrived to Barcelona Nord at noon (after 1 ½ hours travel by bus). Our friend and Catalan birder, Aleix Comas, met us at the bus station. We took a cab to his and Helena's flat some blocks away. Aleix and Helena were away during the weekend and they kindly let us stay in their nice flat in central Barcelona! On Monday morning, 2nd May, we took the bus to Girona Airport and picked up our hire car (Nissan Micra by Europacar). At the airport we met the Swedish birding team (six birders from Värmland) who had just arrived and were waiting to pick up their hire cars from Hertz. As we had chosen different routes to Roses we agreed to have dinner later in the evening. Roses is located in north-eastern Catalonia. Lena and I stayed at the beautiful residencial Can Bastons in L'Estanyol (on the countryside between Roses and Figueres) for two nights. The last night we slept in the car between Angles and Santa Coloma de Farners, about 20 minutes drive west of Girona Airport.

This was not a hardcore birding trip, but an easy and combined tour exploring Barcelona (especially the architecture by Antoni Gaudí), La Rambla, Montserrat and the house of Salvador Dali in Cadaqués (Cap de Creus) and his museum in Figueres. Most birding was only done during the last three days of our visit (e.g. Aiguamolls, Cap de Creus and Pyrenees). The route was nearly the same as when Göran, Dan and I visited the area in mid December 2004 (see the trip report on Seawatching.net).

The weather during the period was pleasant and hot, mostly clear blue sky and +26-28 degree (only +11 and cloudy up in Vall de Núria). It was only raining in the late afternoon/evening on 2nd May.

Itinerary

29-30th April: We spent a full day walking around and exploring central Barcelona, for example seeing the architecture of Gaudí (such as Casa Milá, Casa Batlló, Parc Güell, Sagrada Familia and much more) as well as many parks and other lovely places. Not much birding in the great city, but Monk Parakeets were present everywhere as were passerines such as Serin, Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Collared Dove, Blackbird and many more. Concerning birds we greatly enjoyed seeing large numbers of Alpine Swifts mainly in the evening. The Alpine Swifts (together with Common Swifts) were only seen in early morning and in the evening (between 18:00 and 20:30 hours). To see and hear flocks of 20-30 Alpine Swifts in the warm evening from Aleix and Helena's flat was certainly an experience!

1st May: In the early morning we took a walk upwards to Gaudí's Parc Güell before the tourists arrived. Beside the incredible neo-Gothic and dream-like architecture by Gaudí, many bird species were recorded in the park. Lots of Alpine Swifts, singing Nightingales and Serins, also one singing Bonelli's Warbler at the very top of the park. After this early visit we took the train and cable car to Montserrat (about 1 ½ hours travel from Barcelona). We took an amazing two hour walk in the mountains after visiting the monastery (founded in year 1025). We heard a few Bonelli's Warblers and Cirl Buntings and saw many Crag Martins and one male Rock Bunting. A trip to Montserrat is highly recommended, for the bird species and the views together! The subway to the station Espanya, train from there to Montserrat and cable car up the monastery cost 121 Euro both ways (buy the return ticket at the station Espanya).

2nd May: We took a cab down to the bus station Barcelona Nord and then caught a bus to Girona Airport. We picked up our hire car and also met the Swedish birding team (Dan Mangsbo, Göran Ekström, Bill Zetterström, Anders Andersson et. al.) who had just arrived for one-weeks hardcore birding in Catalonia. Lena and I drove towards Roses/Aiguamolls along the Costa Brava coast, through the mountains between La Bisbal and Verges. Then we headed for Aiguamolls (birding there) and checked into our accommodation, Can Bastons (west of Roses), and then took an afternoon trip to Cap de Creus. In the evening we had a dinner with the Swedes.

3rd May: Birded at Aiguamolls in the morning and Cap de Creus from noon to the evening.

4th May: Travelled to the Pyrenees in the morning. Birded at Vall de Núria and nearby from late morning to about 16:00 hours in the afternoon. Visited Parc Natural de la Garrotxa briefly in the evening. We slept in the car close to Girona Airport.

5th May: About 06:50 we visited Parc de Sant Salvador in Santa Coloma de Farners for an hour before heading to Girona Airport, from where we took off at 10:40.

Maps

Staff at the tourist office (adjacent to the car rental companies at Girona Airport) are very helpful and will provide many maps and brochures. They have detailed maps covering Roses, Aiguamolls, Cap de Creus, the whole Catalonia and other places as well. Don't miss this opportunity! The information centre in Aiguamolls (El Cortalet) also provides free and good maps over the area.

Description of how to find the main sites

Aiguamolls: The "Parc Natural Aiguamolls de L'Empordà" is divided into two areas and located south-west of Roses in north-eastern Catalonia. Note that all the lowlands around Roses and Aiguamolls are good for birding, not only the wetlands in the latter site. The most visited area in Aiguamolls is El Cortalet with several hides and nice walkways for the whole family. However, in spring the southern part (Mas del Matá and Estany del Matá) probably is the best area for birds (and birders too). This part of Aiguamolls holds a great variety of habitats in a relatively compact space. It could be hard to find the road to this place, but after passing the signs/road to El Cortalet (if arriving from Roses), just look for a big Aquatic sign (and camping) pointing to the left and a small sign about Hipica (=horses). You will pass a new parking area as well a sign that tells you that the campsite is closed (autumn-late spring), but continue along the road and you will soon find the marshes to your left and soon a carpark close to a few houses. From here you will soon find the walkways and signs as well as several hides. This area (including the beach overlooking the Bay of Roses) takes about 2-3 hours to cover and is well suited for a family trip.

Cap de Creus: Parc Natural del Cap de Creus is indeed a great area with sought after species such as Bonelli's Eagle (and many other species of raptors), Blue Rock Thrush, Western Orphean Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Pallid Swift, Spotless Starling, Thekla Lark, Short-toed Lark, Tawny Pipit, Black-eared Wheatear, Southern Grey Shrike and many more. The easternmost tip of Cap de Creus is also a very good site for seawatching in winter and spring! You can reach Cap de Creus either via Roses (towards Cadaqués) or via Vilajuïga (towards el Port de la Selva). Whatever direction you choose regular stops along the road are highly recommended. Longer stops and walks could be done at Santa Helena (close to Sant Pere de Rodes) from where you have an excellent view over the landscape and raptors moving about the area. Western Orphean Warbler and other passerines occur. If you drive from Roses towards Cadaqués I recommend that you to visit the plateau at Coll del Peni (not the highest peak but where you have to park the car) for an hour or so. You will find the turnoff to the right (sign) if reaching the area from Roses. Also, the surroundings outside Cadaqués and el Port de la Selva are good birding areas. Cap de Creus is of interest to all the family, not just a place for hardcore birders.

Vall de Núria: If you visit the sites mentioned above this one is certainly a must. It is located in the north-eastern Pyrenees close to the French border. From wherever you start driving you have to aim for the city of Olot and from there you could choose between two roads to Ripoll: The N-260 (red one) offers great views but is rather winding and therefore slow. The C-26 (green one) is much faster and straighter to Ripoll. In Ripoll you just follow the signs towards Ribes de Freser (N-152). When there follow the road to Queralbs (not towards Puigcerda). When you have reach Queralbs, pass a carpark on your left and cross the railway. You will soon see several signs pointing towards a sharp turnoff to the right (upwards by a stone house). Follow that road towards Fontalba; 11.4 km. The first two kilometres are asphalted, but the rest of this steep road is stony, but very broad and safe. As the diversity of species changes radically during the drive up to the peak and parking space (dead end) make some stops regularly here and there. After parking your car at the top, place yourself strategically on a nearby hill and remember that most vultures, raptors and choughs will pass overhead, rather than below through the valleys. Also do some walks in the area and make sure you can spend several hours here and be there as early you can in the morning. Note that the temperature could be + 28 degree in the lowland and only +10 at the peak Fontalba in May, so don't forget to bring warm clothes.

Guided tours in Catalonia

If you ever intend visiting Catalonia do not hesitate to book with Birding Catalonia. They have excellent

guides offering one or two day excursions, which could be useful if you are short of time or looking for difficult species. Feel free to contact them for an itinerary, bookings and prices: info@birdingcatalonia.com or visit their web site on www.birdingcatalonia.com

Photos

A sample of photos from this trip can be viewed in two galleries on the Seawatching web site (under "Trips & photos"): www.seawatching.net/reports.html

Species List (English, scientific and Swedish names)

A total of 141 species were recorded over the period with no effort at all and in easy tempo.

Great Crested Grebe – *Podiceps cristatus* – Skäggdopping

Two seen on both 2nd and 3rd May at the southern part of Aiguamolls.

Little Grebe – *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Smådopping

Up to 30 seen (and playing) on both 2nd and 3rd May at Aiguamolls, mostly in the El Cortalet area.

Balearic/Yelkouan Shearwater – *Puffinus mauretanicus/yelkouan* – Balearisk/Medelhavslira

One seen distantly in Bay of Roses from the beach at Aiguamolls on 2nd May.

Great Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Storskarv

A few seen in the Aiguamolls area on 2-3 May.

Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis* – Kohäger

Seen daily in small parties on 2nd to 5th May, more numerous at Aiguamolls.

Squacco Heron – *Ardeola ralloides* – Rallhäger

One seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May.

Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta* – Silkeshäger

The most numerous heron seen during our tour with up to 100 in the Aiguamolls area on 2nd and 3rd May.

Great Egret – *Egretta alba* – Ägretthäger

Two seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd May.

Grey Heron – *Ardea cinerea* – Gråhäger

Several singles seen at Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May + one in flight over Barcelona on 30th April.

Purple Heron – *Ardea purpurea* – Purpurhäger

Up to 20 seen at Aiguamolls on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus* – Bronsibis

One ringed bird seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May.

White Stork – *Ciconia ciconia* – Vit stork

At least 80-100 were present in the Natural Park Aiguamolls.

Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus roseus* – Större flamingo

At least 40 seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May plus two at El Cortalet on 2nd May.

Mute Swan – *Cygnus olor* – Knölsvan

Three seen in the lagoons at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos* – Gräsand

The most numerous dabbling duck seen during our visit, but only 30-40 birds seen at Aiguamolls (compared to at least 1000 seen in mid December 2004).

Gadwall – *Anas strepera* – Snatterand

Four pairs seen at Aiguamolls on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Common Teal – *Anas crecca* – Kricka

Only three males seen at El Cortalet (Aiguamolls) on 2nd May and one male at Estanys del Matá on 3rd May.

Garganey – *Anas querquedula* – Årta

One male seen in the marshes at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May.

Shoveler – *Anas clypeata* – Skedand

Only three birds seen at El Cortalet (Aiguamolls) on 2nd May.

Black Kite – *Milvus migrans* – Brunglada

A flock of 23 seen soaring and then gliding towards north (France) at Santa Helena (Cap de Creus) in late afternoon on 3rd May. One seen from our accommodation terrace at L'Estanyol on 3rd and five birds present at the same area in the morning on 4th May.

Lammergeier – *Gypaetus barbatus* – Lammgam

At least two birds (1 adult and one 2nd cal year) were seen at the peak Fontalba in Vall de Núria in the Pyrenees late morning on 4th May. The young bird could have been the juvenile we saw in December 2004. Then in fresh plumage, but now had started to moult some secondaries and upperwing coverts. The other Swedes who arrived to the peak earlier in the morning had a few more sightings of this amazing species.

Griffon Vulture – *Gyps fulvus* – Gåsgam

Two seen soaring above Ribes de Freser in the morning on 4th May and at least 20 seen during our four hours visit at Fontalba in Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Short-toed Eagle – *Circaetus gallicus* – Ormörn

One seen near el Port de la Selva in the afternoon on 2nd May. At least four seen from Santa Helena (Cap de Creus) in the afternoon on 3rd May, of which three were migrating north with the Black Kites. Two soaring close to Ribes de Freser in the morning on 4th May and at least four recorded at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Golden Eagle – *Aquila chrysaetos* – Kungsörn

One adult at Cap de Creus (between Cadaqués and Roses) in the afternoon on 2nd May. At least two adults were seen at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Bonelli's Eagle – *Hieraaetus fasciatus* – Hökörn

Two adults were seen soaring and "playing" together at the northern part of Cap de Creus in the afternoon on 2nd May. The birds offered excellent views and finally glide towards their nest and chicks on the northern part. Of course I can't tell you where the birds nest, but if you place yourself along the road between Santa Helena and el Port de la Selva you have a good chance to spot one or two Bonelli's in spring.

Marsh Harrier – *Circus aeruginosus* – Brun kärrhök

Several were seen at Aiguamolls, Cap de Creus and L'Estanyol on 2nd and 3rd May as well a few between Figueres and Olot on 4th May.

Sparrowhawk – *Accipiter nisus* – Sparvhök

One male seen between Ribes de Freser and Queralbs in the morning on 4th May.

Buzzard – *Buteo buteo* – Ormvråk

Several were seen in the Aiguamolls area, Cap de Creus and especially in the Pyrenees on 4th May.

Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus* – Fiskgjuse

Two seen at Aiguamolls in the afternoon on 2nd May.

Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus* – Tornfalk

Seen in centre Barcelona on 1st May and recorded daily between 2nd and 5th May in north-eastern Catalonia.

Red-legged Partridge – *Alectoris rufa* – Rödhöna

Two at L'Estanyol and four at Cap de Creus on 2nd May, eight at Cap de Creus, two at Santa Helena and two at L'Estanyol on 3rd May.

Pheasant – *Phasianus colchicus* – Fasan

1-2 heard regularly at our accommodation at Can Bastons in L'Estanyol on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Quail – *Coturnix coturnix* – Vaktel

One heard regularly at our accommodation at Can Bastons in L'Estanyol on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Water Rail – *Rallus aquaticus* – Vattenrall

One heard at El Cortalet (Aiguamolls) on 2nd May.

Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus* – Rörhöna

Many were seen and heard at Aiguamolls on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Coot – *Fulica atra* – Sothöna

Many were seen and heard at Aiguamolls on both 2nd and 3rd May.

Black-winged Stilt – *Himantopus himantopus* – Stytlöpare

Common in the Aiguamolls area.

Stone Curlew – *Burhinus oediconemus* – Tjockfot

One close view of a bird in flight at L'Estanyol in the afternoon on 2nd May.

Collared Pratincole – *Glareola pratincola* – Rödvingad vadarsvala

At least 11 birds were present at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Ringed Plover – *Charadrius hiaticula* – Större strandpipare

At least 20 seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Little Ringed Plover – *Charadrius dubius* – Mindre strandpipare

At least four seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Sanderling – *Calidris alba* – Sandlöpare

At least six birds on 2nd May and three on 3rd May at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls).

Temminck's Stint – *Calidris temminckii* – Mosnäppa

Two birds seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May.

Curlew Sandpiper – *Calidris ferruginea* – Spovsnäppa

At least 16 birds at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May, of which most were in their beautiful summer plumage.

Ruff – *Philomachus pugnax* – Brushane

At least 11 birds at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd May.

Spotted Redshank – *Tringa erythropus* – Svartsnäppa

At least three birds on 2nd May and seven on 3rd May at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls).

Redshank – *Tringa totanus* – Rödbena

At least three birds seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Wood Sandpiper – *Tringa glareola* – Grönbena
Probably the most numerous wader seen at Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May!

Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos* – Drillsnäppa
One seen in the harbour of Roses on 2nd May.

Little Gull – *Larus minutus* – Dvärgmås
One very worn adult seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd May (and on 3rd by the other Swedes).

Black-headed Gull – *Larus ridibundus* – Skratmås
Only four immatures seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May.

Audouin's Gull – *Larus audouinii* – Rödnäbbad trut
At least six birds (2 adults and 4 3rd cal year) on the beach at Aiguamolls and two adults on the beach in el Port de la Selva (Cap de Creus) on 2nd May.

Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus michahellis* – Medelhavstrut
The most common gull species, seen everywhere along the coast, offshore and in big flocks inland too.

Sandwich Tern – *Sterna sandvicensis* – Kentsk tärna
At least six birds seen in the Bay of Roses from the beach at Aiguamolls on 2nd May.

Gull-billed Tern – *Sterna nilotica* – Sandtärna
Three adults feeding at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd May.

Whiskered Tern – *Chlidonias hybrida* – Skäggtärna
At least 10 birds seen in area of Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd and 3rd May. Six birds feeding at the pool west of L'Estanyol on 3rd May.

Black Tern – *Chlidonias niger* – Svarttärna
At least three birds seen in area of Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) and two birds feeding at the pool west of L'Estanyol on 3rd May.

Feral Dove – *Columba livia* – Stadsduva
Common in all cities and seen here and there daily.

Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus* – Ringduva
Seen daily here and there, even in the parks of Barcelona.

Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto* – Turkduva
Common and seen daily.

Turtle Dove – *Streptopelia turtur* – Turturduva
Two seen at Aiguamolls on 2nd May.

Cuckoo – *Cuculus canorus* – Gök
A few heard at Parc Güell in Barcelona on 30th April and 1st

May. Many seen and heard daily between 2nd and 5th May, from the agricultural lowlands up to the Pyrenees.

Scops Owl – *Otus scops* – Dvärguv
At least three birds heard calling in late evening from our accommodation at L'Estanyol on 2nd May, when we returned from a nice dinner with the Swedish birders in Roses.

Nightjar – *Caprimulgus europaeus* – Nattskärna
One singing in the evening in a sandy Pine wood area between Angles and Santa Coloma de Farners on 4th May.

Swift – *Apus apus* – Tornseglare
Common and seen daily, especially in cities and villages.

Alpine Swift – *Apus melba* – Alpanseglare
Only seen in Barcelona on 29th April to 2nd May. Only observed in early morning and evening when leaving and arriving to their nests. Between 18:00-20:30 hours many groups seen and heard over the roofs from Aleix's flat, in all more than 100, but it's hard to count.

Bee-eater – *Merops apiaster* – Biätare
One at Cap de Creus on 2nd May, 15 at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 3rd, a total of 35 at Cap de Creus on 3rd and 2 feeding at L'Estanyol in the evening on 3rd May.

Roller – *Coracias garrulus* – Blåkråka
Two near Girona airport on 2nd May. Though Roller breeds in Aiguamolls we didn't see any there.

Hoopoe – *Upupa epops* – Härfågel
Several seen at Parc Güell in Barcelona on 30th April and 1st May. Up to 20 seen daily between 2nd and 5th May.

Rose-ringed Parakeet – *Psittacula krameri* – Halsbandsparakit
Only seen in Barcelona (Parc de Cascada and Parc Güell) on 30th April and 1st May, with 11 birds at the latter park.

Monk Parakeet – *Myiopsitta monachus* – Munkparakit
Common and seen everywhere in Barcelona between 29th April and 2nd May

Green Woodpecker – *Picus viridis* – Gröngöling
One in Parc de Sant Salvador (Santa Coloma de Farners) in the morning on 5th May.

Skylark – *Alauda arvensis* – Sånglärka
Two singing in Wall de Núria on 4th May.

Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata* – Tofslärka
Fairly common. Seen and heard here and there in lowland areas close to the coast 2nd to 5th May.

Thekla Lark – *Galerida theklae* – Lagerlärka
Several seen and heard singing on higher and rocky altitudes and only recorded on the Cap de Creus on 2nd and 3rd May.

Crag Martin – *Hirundo rupestris* – Klippsvala
About 50 at Montserrat on 1st May, 10 at Santa Helena (Cap de Creus) on 3rd and 30 at Campdevánol (close to Ripoll) on 4th May.

Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica* – Ladusvala
Common and seen daily.

Red-rumped Swallow – *Hirundo daurica* – Rostgumpssvala
One breeding pair outside Cadaqués and another pair close to el Port de la Selva on 3rd May. Breeding in small stone bridges along the road on Cap de Creus.

House Martin – *Delichon urbicum* – Hussvala
Common and seen daily, especially large colonies in villages.

Sand Martin – *Riparia riparia* – Backsvala
Three seen at Estanys del Matá (southern part of Aiguamolls) on 2nd May and up to 10 at Cap de Creus on 3rd May

Water Pipit – *Anthus spinoletta* – Vattenpiplärka
At least 30 at the peak Fontalba in Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Tree Pipit – *Anthus trivialis* – Trädpiplärka
Two singing between Ripoll and Ribes de Freser on 4th May.

Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava* – Gulärkla
A few were seen and heard in Aiguamolls and Cap de Creus on 2nd and 3rd May.

White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba* – Sädesärkla
Fairly common and seen daily.

Wren – *Troglodytes troglodytes* – Gärdsmyg
Fairly common in the right habitats. Singings birds were heard daily.

Dunnoek – *Prunella modularis* – Järnsparv
Commonly seen and heard in Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Robin – *Erithacus rubecula* – Rödhake
Common and widespread. Seen and heard daily, also in Barcelona.

Nightingale – *Luscinia megarhynchos* – Sydnäktergal
Common and widespread. Seen and heard daily, also in the parks in Barcelona.

Black Redstart – *Phoenicurus ochruros* – Svart rödstjärt
One male at L'Estanyol on 3rd and one female at Fontalba (Vall de Núria) on 4th May.

Whinchat – *Saxicola rubetra* – Buskskvätta
A few seen in the area of Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May.

Stonechat – *Saxicola torquatus* – Svarthakad buskskvätta
Up to 20 seen daily on 2nd to 4th May, from the lowlands to higher levels in the Pyrenees.

Northern Wheatear – *Oenanthe oenanthe* – Stenskvätta
A few recorded daily on 2-4th May, with about 20 at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Rock Thrush – *Monticola saxatilis* – Stentrast
One singing and one perched male close to the peak Fontalba in Vall de Núria on 4th May

Ring Ouzel – *Turdus torquatus alpestris* – Ringtrast
Three at the peak Fontalba in Vall de Núria on 4th May. This race are indeed very beautiful!

Blackbird – *Turdus merula* – Koltrast
Common and widespread. Seen daily, also in central Barcelona.

Song Thrush – *Turdus philomelos* – Taltrast
A few seen and heard singing in the Pyrenees, Parc de la Garrotxa and Sant Salvador on 4-5th May.

Mistle Thrush – *Turdus viscivorus* – Dubbeltrast
Several recorded at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti* – Cettisångare
Fairly common in the area of Aiguamolls on 2-3rd May.

Zitting Cisticola – *Cisticola juncidis* – Grässångare
Several seen and heard in Aiguamolls and L'Estanyol on 2nd and 3rd May.

Sedge Warbler – *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* – Sävsångare
A few heard singing at Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May.

Reed Warbler – *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* – Rörsångare
Several heard singing at Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May.

Great Reed Warbler – *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* – Trastsångare
Several seen and heard singing at Aiguamolls on 2nd and 3rd May.

Melodious Warbler – *Hippolais polyglotta* – Polyglottsångare
One seen at El Cortalet (Aiguamolls) on 2nd May and at least four singing birds at Cap de Creus on 3rd May.

Dartford Warbler – *Sylvia undata* – Provincesångare
Three seen and heard at Cadaqués (Cap de Creus) on 3rd May.

Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala* – Sømmetshätta
Fairly common and recorded daily on 1-5th May.

Western Orphean Warbler – *Sylvia hortensis* – Herdesångare (”västlig Mästersångare”)
One seen and singing between Roses and Cadaqués and another one at Santa Helena on 3rd May. Cap de Creus seem to be the easiest place to find this species in Catalonia.

Blackcap – *Sylvia atricapilla* – Svarthätta
Fairly common and recorded daily, also frequently heard in Barcelona.

Western Bonelli’s Warbler – *Phylloscopus bonelli* – Bergsångare
One singing at the top in Parc Güell (Barcelona) in the morning on 1st May, 2-3 singing at Montserrat on 1st May, a total of three singing in the mountain area between La Bisbal and Verges on 2nd May and finally one singing between Ripoll and Ribes de Freser on 4th May.

Chiffchaff – *Phylloscopus collybita* – Gransångare
One singing close to Ribes de Freser in the morning on 4th May.

Firecrest – *Regulus ignicapilla* – Brandkronad kungsfågel
Two in Parc Güell on 30th April, two between La Bisbal and Verges on 2nd May and three in Parc de Sant Salvador (Santa Coloma de Farners) on 5th May.

Pied Flycatcher – *Ficedula hypoleuca* – Svartvit flugsnappare
One male at Parc Güell (Barcelona) on 30th April and 1st May.

Crested Tit – *Parus cristatus* – Tofsmes
Two at Parc Güell (Barcelona) on 30th April and several heard and a few seen in Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Coal Tit – *Parus ater* – Svartmes
Heard calling widely in woodland areas in the Pyrenees on 4th May.

Great Tit – *Parus major* – Talgoxe
Seen and heard daily here and there, also in Barcelona.

Blue Tit – *Parus caeruleus* – Blåmes
Seen and heard daily here and there, also in Barcelona.

Short-toed Treecreeper – *Certhia brachydactyla* – Trädgårdsträdskrypare
Two between La Bisbal and Verges on 2nd May and one in Parc de Sant Salvador (Santa Coloma de Farners) on 5th May.

Golden Oriole – *Oriolus oriolus* – Sommargylling
At least five singing males in the morning at Parc de Sant Salvador (Santa Coloma de Farners) on 5th May. Two beautiful males and one female was perched in one tree!

Southern Grey Shrike – *Lanius meridionalis* – Ökenvarfågel
One at Cap de Creus on 2nd May and one in Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Woodchat Shrike – *Lanius senator* – Rödhuvad törnskata
At least 30 were recorded at Cap de Creus on 3rd May.

Jay – *Garrulus glandarius* – Nötskrika
Several between La Bisbal and Verges on 2nd May and many seen in the Pyrenees and Parc de la Garrotxa on 4th May.

Magpie – *Pica pica* – Skata
Fairly common and seen here and there daily.

Red-billed Chough – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* – Alpkråka
Two at Vall de Núria on 4th May. Unfortunately we didn’t see any Alpine Choughs, but the other Swedes did earlier in the morning.

Jackdaw – *Corvus monedula* – Kaja
Two seen at Aiguamolls on 2nd May.

Carrion Crow – *Corvus corone corone* – Svartkråka
A few seen at Aiguamolls and L’Estanyol on both 2nd and 3rd May. Several seen in the Pyrenees on 4th May.

Raven – *Corvus corax* – Korp
A few recorded at Montserrat on 1st May and Cap de Creus on 3rd May. Several seen at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Starling – *Sturnus vulgaris* – Stare
Common and seen daily. We also looking for Spotless Starling at Cap de Creus, but without any luck.

House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus* – Gråsparv
Common and widespread. Seen daily.

Tree Sparrow – *Passer montanus* – Pilfink
Scarce and not seen daily, though, we didn’t search for this species, but at least 10 was recorded at Escala on 2nd May.

Chaffinch – *Fringilla coelebs* – Bofink
Seen daily in small numbers, also in Barcelona.

Serin – *Serinus serinus* – Gulhämpling
Common and widespread. Seen and heard singing daily. Fairly common in Barcelona too.

Citril Finch – *Serinus citrinella* – Citronsiska

Four (2+2) seen at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Greenfinch – *Carduelis chloris* – Grönfink

Several seen at Aiguamolls, Cap de Creus, L'Estanyol and in the Pyenees on 2nd to 4th May.

Goldfinch – *Carduelis carduelis* – Steglits

Common and widespread. Seen and heard singing daily. Fairly common in Barcelona too.

Siskin – *Carduelis spinus* – Grönsiska

One at Queralbs on 4th May.

Linnet – *Carduelis cannabina* – Hämpling

Several seen at Aiguamolls and L'Estanyol and fairly common at Cap de Creus 2-4th May.

Common Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra* – Mindre korsnäbb

10 in one flock at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Bullfinch – *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* – Domherre

A pair seen along the road at Queralbs on 4th May.

Yellowhammer – *Emberiza citrinella* – Gulsparv

Two at Aiguamolls on 2nd May and one at Ribes de Freser on 4th May.

Cirl Bunting – *Emberiza cirlus* – Häcksparv

At least four singing at Montserrat on 1st May.

Rock Bunting – *Emberiza cia* – Klippsparv

One male seen at Montserrat on 1st May and one male at Vall de Núria on 4th May.

Reed Bunting – *Emberiza schoeniclus* – Sävsparv

Two males seen at Aiguamolls on 2-3rd May (far from common as in winter here).

Corn Bunting – *Emberiza calandra* – Kornsparv

Common and widespread. Seen and heard singing everywhere at Cap de Creus on 2nd and 3rd May.

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